

Woman Checkmates The Kaiser

The Duchess Of Luxembourg Matches Her Wit and Beauty Against War Lord's Power and Wins Out—How This Resourceful Feminine Ruler Halted the German Legions and Obtained Redress For Damages In Her Country Is Now Told In Army Circles and Chronicled In History

The German army may go as it pleases in Belgium but there is a pretty and determined young woman who is holding the Kaiser personally responsible for every act of depredation committed by the German troops in the Duchy of Luxembourg. She is Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide and recently she compelled the German government to pay her \$100,000 indemnity for seizing her railroads and work-shops.

Kaiser Wilhelm is an iron man when it comes to ruling soldiers, but all his austerness was beaten down by this young beauty of royal blood. The sight of German troops and of the Kaiser himself didn't awe her a bit and she told the Kaiser personally that he would have to pay her for all the damage done by his army. She also told this ruler several little things about her royal rights that made him a bit uneasy in her presence.

The Kaiser is used to ruling men and when pretty Duchess Marie told him what she thought of the restrictions placed on her countrymen he had to yield her point and then change the subject.

While the Belgians opposed the invasion of the German troops with shot, Grand Duchess Marie wheeled her big gray automobile in front of the advancing troops last fall and compelled them to come to a halt. It was not until the great General von Buelow came to the front and paid his respects to her highness and assured her that all damage done would be paid for, that the people of her Duchy were to have their rights and that she was to remain their ruler, that she whisked her car away and allowed the troops to pass.

THE KAISER "BACKS UP"

Later when she had any complaint to make about the conduct of German troops she brought it to the Kaiser personally, and told him in no uncertain language that he would have to repair the damage. For Grand Duchess Marie doesn't fight fair with great big soldiers like the Kaiser. If she would send her troops against the German forces when she got mad perhaps the Kaiser would know what to do, but when she turned up by the beauty of her pretty sisters, then pouted and stamped her foot before the Kaiser and on top of this made her demands, the Kaiser like any other human that respects beauty and determination in a woman, had to yield and grant her wishes. In fact, the Grand Duchess is about the only one in Europe who can exert such influence over the German ruler.

Of the incident where Marie Adelaide halted the German army a dispatch from Paris gives the following account: "When the German army entered Luxembourg, a lovely young girl went out to meet them and barred the way with her automobile. She was the ruler of the land."

"Your Grand Ducal Highness had best go home and play the piano," said General von Buelow, as he rode up to the head of his soldiers. The Duchess demanded that he reassure her as to his intentions of paying indemnity for any damage done her country. Upon von Buelow's promise she turned the car out of the road and drove back to her Palace.

The following is told of her first

interview with the Kaiser: "What are those little ruins I see from the window?" he asked of the Grand Duchess.

"Sire," she replied, "they are the remains of a fortress constructed by Vauban for the French King Louis XIV." she replied, noticing that her reply had a visible effect on the monarch.

Conversation languished. "And the old walls beyond the windmill?"

"Sire, they were of a chateau built by the Marquis de Crequy after he had dictated peace to the Elector of Brandenburg."

Conversation languished more. Again the polite Kaiser ventured a question:

"And the charming road up to them. Has it any history?"

"Sire, but little," replied Marie Adelaide. "except that in 1795 along it General Amberg forced the Imperialists to capitulate." All of which three replies irked the Kaiser, but he had no reply to offer.

The dispatch relates further conversations between Marie Adelaide and the Kaiser: "You have stopped our telegraph and telephone service," she complained to the Kaiser, "and my merchants are losing money. You have taken over our mail service. German soldiers replace my mailmen."

MAKING PEACE TERMS.

The Kaiser said he would have things changed and a month later telephone subscribers were allowed to send local messages.

She complained further: "You have seized our railroad. My people may not ride without a permit, and 800,000 German soldiers have ridden free. The rolling stock is ruined. Yet you signed with us a treaty never to use our railroads for military purposes." The Kaiser coughed.

"You have changed all of the pretty names of our villages. You have turned Linciers into Junglinster and Marie into Merach. La Rocquette has become Feis, Rosiere is Roesser and sweet Andelhem is Hoshert."

"Is it a military necessity? Do you seek a right of passage only as you promised. It has the odor of annexation. My people are worried."

The Kaiser was in a dilemma. Her remark about odor of annexation made him aware for the first time of the sweet perfume used by the Duchess.

"What is the name of that delicious perfume?" asked the Kaiser. Henceforth Adelaide gave the Kaiser another "dig."

"It is called 'Champs-Elysees,'" she replied as she handed him the bottle bearing the label of a famous French perfume.

Yet at that moment all Luxembourg was joking about the landau of the Champs-Elysees.

It was a magnificent open landau which came to the little city empty. German soldiers escorting it, said, with awe: "It is the carriage in

which our Kaiser will enter Paris—down the Champs-Elysees in triumph! And they put it in the best garage."

Daily thereafter the bourgeois of Luxembourg made their afternoon walk past the garage. They wanted to see the landau of the Champs Elysees. But it remained in its shelter. So, thereafter, each time that there was a rumor of Paris being taken, the Luxemburgers said: "Nenni, the landau is still there!"

COLLECTING DAMAGES.

As the result of the efforts of the Grand Duchess, Germany paid \$100,000 for damages for houses destroyed, farms sacked, fields trampled and cemented, vehicles and stock requisitioned, etc. The Duchess, however, was not satisfied.

"We have spent \$250,000 in hospitals and Red Cross caring for wounded Germans. Yet French wounded and prisoners may not even receive a cup of coffee from us at the railroad stations. She, this smells of annexation," pretty Marie told the Kaiser.

"And our mines and factories? You put out their proprietors and run them yourselves. Will you reimburse? Will you pay damages? Do you keep account? When proprietors complain too much you arrest them. You have requisitioned all our food reserve, paying in paper money, at your own estimate. We have no horses left to till the soil, nor wheat to last until harvest. We shall come to bread tickets yet."

The Duchess complained against the German seizure of roads and her countrymen being forced to show permits to travel.

"Even I carry a permit," she said, "and my Cabinet Ministers must have a pass, signed and dated by a Prussian Major!"

"There he comes!" exclaimed her 13-year-old sister, Sophie, as they rolled beside the Alzette.

"Chaufeur, to the right!" began the wounded beauty. But it was the Kaiser who did the snubbing, because his auto swerved into the highway ahead and went scorching toward Travers.

To their great surprise, 10 minutes later they beheld the Kaiser coming out of the legation. "Quick, the pastry cooks!" said Marie Adelaide. It only took five minutes; and yet—

"There's the Kaiser in front, eating plum tart!" whispered Sophie, staring at the well-known figure in the gray car. "What activity!"

A MYSTERY CLEARED. "It's not possible!" said the Grand Duchess. And she told her Minister of State that evening: "He cannot be everywhere."

"Will your highness have the explanation?" asked the genial Eyschen. "His Imperial and Royal Majesty is at the front."

A humble citizen of Sirck, across the border, had a similar dilemma when he came upon a business trip to Luxembourg. Returning to Sirck, he asserted in the cafes that the Kaiser was not at the front, because he was here. They took him to the police.

"You are accused of spreading false news," said the Commissary. "The Kaiser is at the front. The proof is that the papers say so."

"But," insisted the Sircker, "I arrive from Luxembourg. I saw the Kaiser this morning with my own eyes."

"It proves nothing," said the commissary.

"There are three Kaisers in Lux-



GRAND DUCHESS MARIE ADELAIDE PHOTOGRAPHED JUST BEFORE THE WAR

GRAND DUCHESS MARIE ADELAIDE PHOTOGRAPHED AFTER THE WAR BEGAN



PRINCESS ANTOINETTE



THE SISTERS AT THEIR PALACE OF BERG. PRINCESS CHARLOTTE STANDS ON THE EXTREME RIGHT, TOUCHING THE CHAIR OF HER SISTER THE GRAND DUCHESS. LITTLE ELIZABETH STANDS ON HER LEFT, AND LITTLE SOPHIE SITS ON THE EXTREME LEFT.



PRINCESS HILDA

Faubourgs, on the road to Treves and at the flower market. In reality he is working at the legation."

The Kaiser learned of the automobile episode and his admiration of the pretty Duchess was increased and she is now considered by him a worthy "foe."

The Kaiser has two ways of dealing with foes. If they are men he crushes them with mailed fist. If they are women he has one of his trusted officers marry them. It is probable that finding the girl such a worthy opponent, the Kaiser will seek to make her a member of his royal family by marriage.

"I shall not marry," says Duchess Marie with a pout.

"We shall not marry," her very beautiful sisters: Charlotte, Hilda, Antoinette, Elizabeth and Sophie—repeat after her. But Luxemburgers say they must eventually marry, so that there will be heirs to the Duchy. They have no brothers and their father is dead.

Is Marie Adelaide sincere? Her subjects have criticized her for accepting what they call the Iron Cross from the hands of Wilhelm II. "It is 'mixed.' What she accepted was a kind of medal reserved to the high dames of the German Red Cross, a little jewel, not beautiful, of no importance."

As much as to say she is a woman. And there is the marriage problem.

"I shall never marry," she says. "We shall never marry," repeat Charlotte, Hilda, Antoinette, Elizabeth and Sophie.

Tut, tut. And who is there to marry but a German princeling? So some say: "Our Grand Duchess is a heroine."

And others: "Our Grand Duchess is . . . Grand Duchess. The big and little highnesses have made it up together."

black imperial eagle, constantly outwitting the curious. No spy or assassin can keep up with the Kaiser. He is simultaneously in the